

Oh God, our creator and redeemer, starting with Abraham and Sarah you have called forth a people to be your own. In every age you have saved your people from oppression, slavery, and evil. When your temple was defiled you called forth the Maccabees to bring your people freedom and to restore true worship of your Holy Name. When the temple was reclaimed you kept the sanctuary light miraculously burning for eight consecutive days. And so we praise you for your miracles, your wonders, and your acts of salvation.

We turn to you now, asking you to help all your children to live together in peace and mutual understanding. May wars cease, violence be quelled, and enemies be reconciled. Bless our land. Help us to serve each other with respect and dignity.

We especially ask your blessing upon this community of San Antonio, where we honor and protect each other as Jews or Catholics, Protestant Christians and Muslims, and people of many different faiths. The human person is made in your image. May we see your face in the faces of every person we encounter. As you kept the sanctuary lamp burning brightly so many centuries ago, so may you enlighten our way with each other, here and now. This we pray in your most Holy Name.

Amen.